

# **STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD**

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**National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)**

**Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security**

**Committee on the Judiciary**

**United States House of Representatives**

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Gohmert, Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the importance of H.R. 3546, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Reauthorization Act.

I am the President of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC), which represents 44 state narcotic officers' associations, the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Director's Association, the National RISS Director's Association and other related state and regional law enforcement associations with a combined membership of more than 69,000 police officers throughout the nation. I am a veteran police officer and have spent the vast majority of my 35-year law enforcement career assigned to drug enforcement. Recently, I retired from state service as an Assistant Chief with the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and continue to serve in law enforcement as the Director of the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NC HIDTA) and Regional Intelligence Fusion Center NC

RIC). In addition to my service with the NNOAC I have served as President of the California Narcotic Officers' Association, I am the current Vice Chair of the Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) and Global Intelligence Working Group (GIWG) which serve to advise the Attorney General of the United States on matters relating to criminal intelligence and information sharing, I also serve on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Committee and I am on the Board of Directors of the National HIDTA Directors Association.

Thanks to the vision and leadership provided by the United States Congress, and this Subcommittee in particular, there is considerable good news to report to the American public regarding our fight against illicit drugs. In recent years, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has reported significant reductions in overall drug use. These successes have caused many of us to look with pride on accomplishments brought about by implementation of a balanced and comprehensive drug strategy. As you know, our national drug control strategy relies on a robust commitment at the Federal, state and local levels to prevention, treatment and the enforcement of our drug laws.

While there is still much work to be done, our nation has experienced success, in large part, as a result of policies and programs legislated by Congress over the past 20 years. Despite this pattern of success, I am deeply concerned about the administration's budget proposals and certain recent decisions by Congress related to federal funding assistance for state, local and tribal law enforcement. These decisions will gut state and local law enforcement's ability to battle drug-traffickers, gangs and violent criminals and will place our fellow citizens in great peril.

My organization's members – and hundreds of thousands of other public servants and community activists across the country – were shocked when the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act slashed funding by more than 60% for one of the most important law enforcement programs funded by the federal government – the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program. In recent years we have seen the first increases in crime rates in this country in more than a decade. This trend has occurred as state and local law enforcement assistance has decreased and when law enforcement agencies are stretched thin due to decreasing state and local budget while facing increasing homeland security responsibilities and the need to address a growing gang problem. . While Congress and the administration are generally supportive of law enforcement, proposed cuts and changes to key programs that have proven successful are beginning to lead us down a path we don't want to travel.

#### **THE IMPORTANCE OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT:**

Law enforcement is easy to take for granted. Often, we underestimate the significance of our security at home because we become accustomed to living in a relatively secure environment. But taking the life-and-death role of drug law enforcement officers for granted, especially at this time in our history, would be a terrible mistake.

Unfortunately, the present drug control budget takes drug law enforcement for granted. If the FY 2009 recommendation for the Federal Drug Control Budget is adopted by Congress, the Byrne-JAG formula program will be eliminated and justice assistance funding will be reduced by 60%. If these proposals are allowed to slip by, they will jeopardize many years of institution-building and mission success that we have all helped to build.

Success over the past 20 years has been achieved by the hard work and commitment of America's law enforcement officers, prosecutors, drug court judges, treatment professionals and efforts of the grassroots prevention community, including parents, teachers, clergy, national guardsmen, and community anti-drug coalitions. We recognize that our jobs as narcotic law enforcement officers are part of a larger strategy that includes all of these professionals and community activists.

Along with my fellow law enforcement officers, I am appalled at the effect drugs have had on American families and communities. In my 35 years I have seen far more drug-caused death, destruction, and devastation than I care to think about. I have pulled too many children from filthy, diseased, drug-infested dens of neglect. I have laid my hands on too many who have died from a drug overdose or the violent crime that is always present when drugs are near. I have watched too many desperate drug-poisoned addicts genuinely sob at the realization that their addiction has cost them their families. And I have seen far too many hopes, dreams and aspirations destroyed by drug abuse. In my mind, it is not only my job, it is my moral responsibility as a human being to do everything in my power – including the powers given to me by city councils, county commissions, state legislatures, and this Congress – to intervene, to do all I can to stand between purveyors of drugs and their prey. Let's not allow devastating unintended consequences to happen by reducing the ability of law enforcement to enforce drug laws. As a father, husband, life-long public servant, and life-respecting human being, please do not prevent me from doing what I need to do to stand between drug pushers and their victims. If you don't embrace this legislation, if you don't restore funding for this program in FY09 appropriations, that is exactly what will happen. I

and my colleagues will be prevented from doing what we know works, and more importantly, what we know is right.

Last week I attended the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial service on the steps of the United States Capitol. The memorial wall now contains the names of 18,274 American law enforcement heroes who have paid with their lives to make America a safer place to work, live and raise our children. At least seventy of those officers killed in the past six years died while enforcing drug laws. This memorial service was a reminder of the importance of drug enforcement and of Congress' role in framing – and maintaining – sound drug policy. As Americans, we must never give up in our fight to preserve, protect and defend this great nation from the scourge of drugs. To do so would dishonor the memory of my fellow police officers and those who have died as a result of drug abuse. It is our solemn duty to do everything in our power to keep our nation's most precious treasure – our children – safe and drug free.

#### **THE IMPACT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ADDICTION:**

While I know the members of this subcommittee understand the true impact of the drug problem, it is easy for discussions in Washington regarding drug policy and funding for drug treatment, prevention, and enforcement programs to become academic. The reality for the 69,000 members represented by the NNOAC – and for law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMS workers, probation officers, drug court judges, and treatment professionals – is that these issues involve real-life tragedies.

From a personal point of view, my civilian friends often ask me about the physical and emotional toll that thirty-five years of facing the danger of ruthless drug dealers has

taken on me. The truth is, as a police officer, you learn quickly to live with danger. What keeps me up at night is the death, fear, economic despair, and ruined lives I see as a result of drug addiction and drug-fueled violent crime. I have seen a lot of it. It is hard to watch generations of families succumb to the downward spiral of drug use, abuse, and addiction. It is hard to carry children out of meth houses reeking of poisonous gas.

Drug enforcement officers are driven in their commitment to fight the scourge of drug abuse by recurring images of innocent children languishing in dirty diapers, living in deplorable and dangerous conditions and suffering from malnutrition and drug-addicted parents who often abuse them and who are unable to care for them. We are driven to face the danger of drug enforcement by witnessing impressionable young lives ruined when they are lured into a culture of crime by adults promising quick money. We see kids become dealers for adults, or lookouts that facilitate the drug sales operations of adults.

I once supervised a raid on a rural California super-lab that was producing more than 100 pounds of methamphetamine per two-day reaction cycle. As we approached the house to execute our search warrant, a large cloud of highly toxic gas began to vent from the house. Upon entry into that dangerous environment, we encountered four armed meth cooks and a woman, eight-months pregnant, who had been in the house for the entire two-day reaction cycle with her two small children.

During another lab raid, I found a teenage boy, an honors student, who lived with his meth-addicted father in a home where two separate chemical fires had flashed through the house, neither of which were reported to the fire department for fear that the meth production would be discovered. That teenager was working to survive, despite the daily danger posed by chemical exposure, explosion, fire, and armed encounters with rival drug dealers.

In deciding the fate of Federal assistance for state and local drug enforcement activities these questions must be asked: With the effects of drug abuse costing more than 30,000 American lives each year, how many more cuts can we afford to make to drug enforcement programs before the goals of our National Drug Control Strategy become impossible to reach? How many more deaths will occur if we abandon what has proved to be a successful and balanced approach to our nation's drug problem by dramatically reducing or eliminating successful drug enforcement programs such as the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and the HIDTA Program? The impact of reducing the Federal commitment to assisting local law enforcement fight drug trafficking will deliver a slow but devastating blow to the quality of life in America.

Drug enforcement was hit four years ago when the original Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant were consolidated into the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program with an overall reduction in funding without a mandate to use those funds for drug-related criminal justice programs. The program again suffered greatly in recent years, most notably when the combined funding total was reduced from \$520 million in FY 2007 to \$170 million in FY 2008 – a cut of almost two-thirds. While there are strong bi-partisan efforts at work to restore funding to more appropriate levels through emergency supplemental appropriations, if these cuts remain intact, literally hundreds of multi-jurisdictional drug task forces will be forced to close, essentially turning a blind eye to the problem of drug manufacturing, sales and related gang violence which kills or destroys the lives of so many Americans.

In one example of the impact of the cuts to the Byrne Program, the governor of Texas eliminated funding for most drug task forces in the state because he determined that available

funding was not sufficient to continue to sustain multi-jurisdictional drug task forces. The limited funds remaining for use in Texas are being used for border enforcement. Tragically, that trend of eliminating or decreasing task forces is one that the members of the NNOAC are experiencing throughout the United States despite the demonstrated importance of the role that state and local law enforcement play in the fight against drugs.

### **DRUG TRAFFICKING IS TERRORISM:**

On September 11, 2001, almost 3,000 Americans were murdered by terrorists from foreign lands. The intensity, magnitude, and sheer evil of that single attack was a wake-up call to the world. Ironically, the events of 9/11 overshadowed a different kind of attacks – chemical attacks that occur each day in cities and towns in the form of death-dealing illegal drug trafficking.

We must live with – and prepare for – the threat of foreign terrorism. Still, I believe that drug trafficking and abuse are the most significant continuing threats to our domestic security. We are engaged in a mortal battle with illegal drug trafficking organizations, drug-funded gang activity, and violent drug-related crime.

Illegal drug overdoses kill more than 30,000 Americans each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The impact on our economy is estimated to be more than \$180 billion each year. But those stark numbers don't paint the complete picture. The unrelenting attack by international drug cartels, American street gangs, meth cooks, and neighborhood drug traffickers is a tragedy that touches every family in America. How can we quantify the lives ruined, opportunities lost, and heartache caused by drug abuse?



Since September 11, 2001, the focus of Federal assistance to state and local public safety agencies has shifted to protecting the homeland from terrorist activities and equipping first responders. Of course, it is important to fund preparedness and response capacity, but that shift has come at the expense of the drug enforcement mission. That shift has not only affected America's communities, but has impacted aspects of the Global War on Terror. By shifting state and local law enforcement assistance resources to homeland security, we must not lose our focus on drug enforcement and drug prevention. I know you share my concern, Mr. Chairman, that protecting our homeland MUST mean protecting citizens from drug traffickers and violent drug gangs at home. To save the perimeter but lose the heartland would be a hollow victory.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, no child on U.S. soil has been injured or killed in a foreign-organized terrorist attack. But most children, regardless of race, gender or economic background will be asked by friends or acquaintances to try dangerous illegal drugs. Each child will struggle with a choice that has the real potential to ruin their life, a choice that – wrongly made – will cause them to sacrifice their health, mental state, education, and family. Stumbling into the world of drugs will likely force them to be estranged from family, friends and faith, far too often robbing them of life itself. Unfortunately, many of our nation's young people will make that life-altering choice this year – a choice with devastating results.

We don't allow ourselves to fight terrorism with one hand tied behind our back. Yet, the current Byrne-JAG budget proposal and the reduced funding for Byrne-JAG in congressional appropriations would tie the strong hand of state and local law enforcement behind its back by reducing support for multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement. Congress must not let this happen.

**DRUGS FUEL VIOLENT CRIME:**

Violence, intimidation, and disinformation are the primary tools of drug traffickers. Drug criminals use force and intimidation to control turf, ensure the swift payment of drug debts, and deter those who might cooperate with law enforcement. A 1997 Bureau of Justice Statistics study of state prison inmates found that criminals who were under the influence of drugs while committing their crime accounted for 27% of all murders and 40% of robberies, a dramatic example of the link between drug use and violent crime. For this reason, drug law enforcement is critical to reducing violent crime and saving lives.

Experience shows that increases in drug arrests are followed by drops in violent crime. Drops in drug arrests are followed by increases in violent crime. In 1994, the New York Police Department implemented a program that targeted individuals and drug gangs that were believed to be responsible for much of the city's violent crime. The department targeted all levels, from street dealers to the drug kingpins that were responsible for supplying the bulk of the drugs that made their way to the streets of New York.

The results were nothing short of phenomenal: from 1994 to 1998, narcotics arrests doubled from 64,000 to 130,000 while serious and violent crimes dropped from 432,000 to 213,000. New York City's per capita homicide rate was reduced to that of Boise, Idaho. The cumulative effect of this multi-year trend was that as many as 750,000 people were spared from being the victims of violent crime and as many as 6,500 of our fellow human beings are alive today who would have been the victims of a homicide if had not been for aggressive law enforcement.

**TASK FORCES WORK:**

Contrary to statements in the Administration's budget request, multi-jurisdictional drug task forces have demonstrated clear results. Notably, on Byrne-JAG, the PART process cited by the administration omits key achievements by individual Byrne-funded task forces. According to data compiled by the National Criminal Justice Association, based on detailed metrics submitted by individual State Administering Agencies for 2004, task forces funded in part by Byrne-JAG were responsible for:

- 54,050 weapons seized
- 5,646 methamphetamine labs seized
- \$250,000,000 in seized cash and personal property (does not include the value of narcotics seized)
- Massive quantities of narcotics removed from America's streets, including:
  - 2.7 million grams of amphetamines/methamphetamine
  - 1.8 million grams of powder cocaine
  - 278,200 grams of crack
  - 73,300 grams of heroin
  - 75 million cultivated and non-cultivated marijuana plants
  - 27 million kilograms of marijuana

On March 7, 2008, the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA), in partnership with the National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) announced the arrests of 4,220 individuals on drug-related charges following a national one-day operation conducted by 41 states. The operation, called *Operation Byrne*

*Blitz* was a coordinated effort led by NASDEA to focus on drug related crimes and to stress the importance of the federally-funded Byrne-JAG program.

In addition to the arrests the operation yielded the seizure of 20,851 pounds of marijuana, 2,886 marijuana plants, 1,749 pounds of cocaine, 120 pounds of methamphetamine, 6,973 pharmaceutical pills, 13,244 ecstasy pills and a variety of other drugs. Also seized were 105 methamphetamine labs, 666 firearms and \$13,463,832 in U.S. currency. In addition, 228 children were determined to be endangered and those cases were referred to the appropriate child protection agencies.

These results are real. They are quantifiable. They are defensible. And they indicate the power of using Federal dollars to leverage massive state and local investment in public safety.

Drug traffickers and drug facilitators are not bound by the borders of one state, any more than they are bound by the borders of one nation. Criminal mobility is why multi-jurisdictional task forces are critical in battling this threat to our personal, community and national security. A joint approach is critical in targeting drug trafficking organizations. Multi-jurisdictional task forces are the lifeblood of state and local drug law enforcement. They help reduce the impact of drug and firearm traffickers, gangs, pharmaceutical diversion, and organized crime in America's communities by linking organizations with information, leveraged assets, and a real-time advantage for law enforcement.

An argument used by some in support of proposed budget cuts to the HIDTA Program and the elimination of Byrne-JAG is that with recent reductions in crime and drug use, financial resources should be shifted to other priorities. I could not disagree more with this statement. We witnessed, in the early 1990s, what happens when resources are shifted

away from the fight against drugs – drug usage and crime rates increased. We should embrace the Byrne-JAG formula program because it works; we should not look for reasons to dismantle it.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, there has been ongoing criticism that Federal law enforcement, the intelligence community and the Department of Defense did not adequately share information to reduce the risk of terrorism. Thanks to Byrne-funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and to the HIDTA program, Federal, state and local drug investigators are co-located and working cooperatively in cities, towns, and rural communities throughout the country. Agencies across the nation have established trusted relationships and make excellent use of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) and the HIDTA Intelligence Centers (ISCs), and are de-conflicting tactical operations and sharing case information in accordance with the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan.

**BYRNE-JAG FORMULA GRANTS LEVERAGE FEDERAL DOLLARS:**

The Administration argues, and some in Congress believe, that the Federal government has gotten too deep into funding state and local law enforcement activities. I agree that Federal funding should not supplant state and local funds for local activities, but I strongly disagree that Byrne-JAG falls into this category. The Byrne Justice Assistance Grants fund multi-jurisdictional task forces that don't replace state and local funds, but rather provide the incentive for local agencies to cooperate, communicate, share information, build good cases, and pursue organizational and regional targets rather than just individual dealers. Both enforcement targets are valid and necessary, but without task forces law enforcement would revert to working within their own stovepipes and arresting targets of opportunity

rather than focusing on organizational targets that have a disproportional impact on the problem. Drug enforcement would revert back to the days when I first started working narcotics in 1978 when we worked within our own teams without cooperating or using intelligence to lead us in drug trafficking investigations.

Drug trafficking is an interstate and international problem which necessarily calls for Federal involvement. The best way for the Federal government to assist state and local law enforcement is through multi-jurisdictional drug task forces which take full advantage of state and local ground-level intelligence and expertise, but which contribute to Federal investigations of regional, national, and international drug trafficking organizations.

An example of how the drug problem in America is an international problem is highlighted by the federal focus on methamphetamine in recent years. Due in large part to the federal focus on methamphetamine, busts of meth labs and meth super labs – those labs that produce 10 lbs or more of methamphetamine – have decreased dramatically over the past several years. However, methamphetamine use and supply hasn't declined. Why? Because the drug traffickers have adapted to the increase in enforcement by moving meth super labs into Mexico for mass production of the drug, then transport the finished meth through our porous southern border into America's interstate highway system. As long as our international borders remain as a revolving door for drug traffickers, drug enforcement will remain a federal government responsibility.

Byrne-JAG formula funding, when spread across the country, is too thin to supplant funding by state and local governments for justice and law enforcement programs. The minimal funding that the Byrne-JAG formula provides leverages state and local investment in justice programs to enhance cooperation, implement best practices, and improve training

of peace officers and prosecutors. In addition, the program properly recognizes the critical role that the Federal government has in addressing America's crime problem. A national, integrated threat demands a national, integrated response with state and locals leading the way, but with the Federal government providing meaningful support.

In reviewing programs around the country, many Byrne-JAG task forces contribute between \$30 and \$40 of state or local funding for every Federal dollar received. This leveraging of Federal dollars creates the incentive and ability for successful drug enforcement that not only addresses the local drug threat but also coordinates investigative efforts against national and international drug trafficking organizations. These Federal dollars don't replace state and local funds, but rather provide the incentive for local agencies to cooperate, communicate, share information and build good cases.

Drug enforcement has come a long way in the past fifteen years, but that hard-earned improvement will wane if Federal resources are not available to help continue the multi-jurisdictional task force model and the concept of intelligence-led policing. Byrne-JAG formula funding that is used by states for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces is rarely used to pay for personnel. It is primarily used for facility leases, overtime costs, vehicle leases and technology that is necessary for effective multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement efforts. Byrne funds are truly the glue that holds together multi-jurisdictional drug units throughout America.

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant formula program allows states, counties, and municipalities to allocate funds each year to state and local programs that address pressing crime problems in their areas. But Byrne-JAG represents only a small fraction of the massive resources state and local governments drive into direct justice expenditures. In

2002, the latest year for which aggregate Census Bureau statistics are available, the following amounts were spent by state and local governments on justice programs:

- State Direct Justice Expenditures: \$60,295,081,000
- Local Direct Justice Expenditures: \$87,151,684,000
- Total State and Local Justice Expenditures: \$147,446,745,000

Inexplicably, the administration's FY 2009 Budget Request does not acknowledge the importance of Federal partnerships with state and local governments in fighting crime. Reducing Federal involvement by cutting or eliminating programs that invest in state and local law enforcement, drug interdiction, prevention, treatment, community corrections, rehabilitation, re-entry and juvenile justice programs makes no sense. Such an act would reverse the trend toward enhanced cooperation that has contributed to the dramatic crime rate reductions of the past ten years.

Since FY 2002, funding for justice assistance programs in the Department of Justice has fallen dramatically from \$2.2 billion to \$800 million – a cut of more than 63%. While reductions in crime and drug use rates over the past 10 years have been significant, they have leveled off over the past two years. The majority of the reductions occurred when state and local law enforcement assistance accounts were funded at high levels. Although impossible to draw a causal link between robust funding for justice assistance programs and reduced crime rates, the correlation cannot be ignored. Improved information sharing, cooperation, equipment, and training for state and local law enforcement has contributed to more orderly communities and more effective law enforcement.

**GROUPS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF BYRNE-JAG**



In recent years, dozens of groups have come together in an informal coalition to prevent the repeated efforts by the Bush administration to eliminate Byrne-JAG. These groups collectively represent hundreds of thousands of law enforcement, substance abuse prevention and treatment, drug courts, prosecutors, corrections, state and local government, victim assistance and juvenile justice personnel around the country – each of whom will be significantly affected by the massive cuts to the Byrne-JAG program. For the past three years, many of these groups have collectively signed joint letters requesting the full authorized funding of the Byrne-JAG program.

Because of the last-minute cuts to Byrne-JAG in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, more groups than ever have come together in an effort to restore funding for Byrne-JAG. In a recent letter submitted to House leadership and the Appropriations Committee, thirty groups signed or gave their endorsement requesting emergency funding to offset the severe cuts in FY 2008. Along with the NNOAC, participating groups included the National Criminal Justice Association, National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, National District Attorneys' Association, National Association of Counties, Major City Chiefs' Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, National HIDTA Directors, National Troopers' Coalition, State Association of Addiction Services, Legal Action Center, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, National Association of Asian-American Law Enforcement Commanders, National Latino Peace Officers Association, International Community Corrections Association, American Jail Association, National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, National Center of

Victims of Crime, American Probation and Parole Association, International Union of Police Associations, National Organization for Victim Assistance, National Crime Prevention Council, American Correctional Association, National League of Cities, National Conference of State Legislators, and the IGIS Institute. I would like to submit the letter for the record.

This is the first time in my career that such a broad range groups has felt strongly enough about a single public safety issue to join forces on a common goal. Many of these groups have jointly met for meetings with congressional leadership to discuss the importance of adequate funding for the Byrne-JAG program. Several of the groups participated in a joint briefing on the importance of Byrne-JAG funding issue for congressional staff.

Mr. Chairman, the NNOAC is not alone in calling on Congress to recognize the importance of the Byrne-JAG formula program. Together, these groups represent hundreds of thousands of public servants and they are united in their focus.

#### **LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS:**

Once the majority of Congress learned about the 11<sup>th</sup>-hour cuts to the Byrne-JAG program in FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress snapped to action. In an effort spearheaded by the groups listed above, a bi-partisan group of 218 members of Congress – over half of the United States House of Representatives – signed a joint letter to House Leadership and Appropriations requesting \$430 million in emergency funding for Byrne-JAG. Additionally, a bipartisan group of 56 Senators signed a similar letter to Senate leadership and appropriators requesting \$490 million in emergency funding for Byrne-JAG. *All told, well over 50% of the entire United States Congress were angered by the severe cuts to Byrne-JAG and asked for the cuts to be restored.* In today's political environment, this

broad show of bipartisan support for a federal program is extremely rare. I would like to submit these letters for the record.

**CONCLUSION:**

If we agree that drug abuse in America is a national problem – with enormous potential impact on every state, congressional district, community and family – and one that requires a coordinated international, national, state, and local law enforcement response; if we agree that drug abuse poses a significant threat to the security of our nation on many levels; if we agree that drug profits fuel terrorism and weaken our ability to respond to terrorist threats; and if we agree that drug trafficking and drug abuse presents a palpable risk to our families, then we should all reach the same conclusion: A coordinated strategy that includes all levels of government, including Federal resources for targeted and effective multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement activities, must be a top priority of the Federal government.

The Byrne-JAG formula programs provide a small amount of the overall funding that is dedicated each year to state and local drug enforcement, but their role is pivotal. Their presence is a key to our success. The funding provided through Byrne-JAG provides the necessary incentive for multi-jurisdictional coordination, as well as the essential elements for state and local law enforcement officers to work with Federal counterparts to control the drug epidemic. It is this coordination that has improved the effectiveness of drug enforcement and has helped reduce drug use and violent crime.

If Congress allows Byrne-JAG to be cancelled, cut or diverted, Congress will effectively cripple multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement at the local and regional levels. Is

this really what is best for America? The dedicated law enforcement officers that I represent believe that common sense, a history of success, compelling facts, and the urgency surrounding multi-jurisdictional coordination all support an uncompromising commitment to Byrne-JAG.

It is time to return to basics in promoting sound drug policy and providing for the safety of every American from drugs and drug-related crime. We must once again embrace those strategies and programs that have led to a safer and more drug-free America. We must work together with enforcement, treatment, and prevention to effectively carry out different but equally important roles in a comprehensive national drug control strategy. We must understand that Federal law enforcement alone has nowhere near the resources necessary to protect Americans from the threat of drugs and gangs. Adequate Federal assistance must be provided in the form of Byrne-JAG formula grants to fund the multi-jurisdictional task forces that provide the first line of defense for cities and towns throughout this nation. We cannot sacrifice the safety of our families and our communities by failing to support drug enforcement.

On behalf of America's narcotic officers, I urge the members of this subcommittee, who have been leaders in developing our national drug control policies, and in protecting programs that fight back against drugs, to do everything in your power to reauthorize the Byrne-JAG program.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Gohmert, members of the Subcommittee, I want to thank you for inviting me to share the views of America's narcotic officers. We applaud you for all that you have done to promote sound drug policy. The members of the NNOAC hold you in great esteem and appreciate your service to America.